

Message Text

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R 011308Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3187
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 BEIRUT 0885

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANON: FIRST IMPRESSIONS

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS ACCOUNT OF MY IMPRESSIONS
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AFTER TWO WEEKS IN LEBANON. BRIEFLY, THE COUNTRY
IS CAUTIOUSLY PICKING ITS WAY OUT OF THE RUINS AND
SLOWLY RETURNING TO NORMAL. PEOPLE ARE STILL
APPREHENSIVE AND UNCERTAIN, HOWEVER. BASIC
QUESTIONS REGARDING FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY HAVE YET
TO BE ANSWERED, AND CONTINUED LACK OF UNIFIED
MILITARY FORCE IS SERIOUS HANDICAP TO REGIME'S

EFFORTS TO REESTABLISH ITS AUTHORITY. LEBANESE BUREAUCRACY, NEVER VERY EFFICIENT AND NOW IN STATE OF ABNORMAL DISARRAY, IS NOT COPING VERY WELL (BUT DOING BETTER THAN I HAD EXPECTED). THE EMBASSY, LIKE THE GOVERNMENT, IS CAUTIOUSLY RETURNING TO NORMAL OPERATIONS, BUT SECURITY REMAINS A MAJOR CONCERN AND WE INTEND KEEP PERSONNEL ON BOARD LIMITED. END SUMMARY.

2. MY FIRST FORTNIGHT IN LEBANON, DURING WHICH I HAVE PRESENTED CREDENTIALS, CALLED ON MOST OF CABINET AND FORMER PRESIDENTS, PRESIDED OVER VISIT OF SECRETARY AND MADE SEVERAL BRIEF EXCURSIONS IN AND OUT OF BEIRUT, HAS BEEN SOBERING. BEIRUT CONTINUES TO SYMBOLIZE THE DESTRUCTIVE INDIVIDUALISM OF THE LEBANESE, ONLY MORE SO. THE SAME GARBAGE LINES THE SAME STREETS ONLY THERE IS MORE OF IT AND THEM. THE VAST WASTELAND OF APARTMENT BUILDINGS IN THE RAMLAT AL BAYDAH AREA IS MADE EVEN MORE UNATTRACTIVE BY THE PRESENCE OF INNUMERABLE SQUATTERS FROM TEL AZ-ZAATAR, DAMOUR AND ELSEWHERE, WHO HAVE OCCUPIED MANY EMPTY FLATS IN THOSE STERILE BUILDINGS PUT UP WITH PENINSULAR ARAB MONEY. THE FASHIONABLE RAOUCHE AREA IS DISFIGURED BY A VAST FLEA MARKET ALONG THE SEA FRONT, ESTABLISHED BY VENDORS FROM THE OLD SUQ SURSOCK; AND THE ONCE FASHIONABLE ST. MICHEL-ST. SIMON BEACH CABANAS HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY MORE SQUATTERS FROM TEL AZ-ZAATAR, WHO HAVE PUSHED THEIR OWN SUQ OUT ONTO THE HIGHWAY, WHERE

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VENDORS SIT CALMLY BETWEEN PILES OF FLY-ATTRACTING GARBAGE. BEIRUT WAS NEVER NEAT. TODAY IT IS A MESS. MY COLLEAGUES IN ALGIERS WILL BE ASTOUNDED TO HEAR THAT THAT JOYLESS CAPITAL LOOKS LIKE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG COMPARED TO THIS PLACE.

3. SERIOUS WAR DAMAGE IS VISIBLE ONLY IN CERTAIN AREAS-- THE PORT AND THE CENTER OF TOWN, ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE CONFRONTATION LINE, AND UP IN TOWNS SUCH AS SLEY WHERE THE FIGHTING WAS HEAVY. AN IMPRESSIVE AMOUNT OF DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE, BUT IT IS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE STATE OF AFFAIRS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO RELIABLE ESTIMATES AS TO HOW MUCH, NOR DOES IT REALLY KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE NEED RELIEF. THE GOL IS HAVING TROUBLE ORGANIZING FOR ANYTHING. ANTENNAE ARE WAVED IN DISTRESS, AND THERE IS TALK OF RECONSTRUCTION, BUT VERY LITTLE IS HAPPENING, AT LEAST GOVERNMENTALLY. MEANWHILE, THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF THE LEBANON IS RISING SLOWLY TO THE OCCASION. THE GLAZIERS

AND MASONS ARE BUSY. EXCEPT IN THE MOST HEAVILY
DAMAGED AREAS, ROLLING SHUTTERS ARE BEING REPLACED
ON THE FRONTS OF GUTTED SHOPS, THE INTERIORS ARE
BEING CLEARED OUT, AND THE MERCHANDISE IS BEING
PUT BACK ON THE SHELVES. RESTAURANTS, CINEMAS,
CAFES, BARS AND DISCOTHEQUES ARE REOPENING, AND
MONDAY MORNING, LEBANON'S GIFT TO JOURNALISM, IS
AGAIN FEATURING PICTURES OF THE JEUNESSE DOREE
LIVING IT UP IN THE NIGHT CLUBS, WHILE THE PALESTINIANS
AND SHIA HUDDLE IN MISERY.

4. THERE ARE OTHER SIGNS OF RETURN TO NORMAL
LIFE. THERE HAS BEEN NO FIRING, AND NO SERIOUS
UNTOWARD INCIDENTS DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS.
THE AUB HAS ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF ITS STUDENTS
ATTENDING CLASSES. THE AUB HOSPITAL IS OPEN FOR
NORMAL BUSINESS, I.E., NO LONGER SWAMPED WITH THE
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WOUNDED. THE BOURSE REOPENED FEB 21. THE AIRPORT

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R 011308Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3188

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 4 BEIRUT 0885

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

IS UP TO 40 PER CENT OF NORMAL OPERATIONS. THE WATER
SUPPLY IS UP TO 80 PER CENT. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IS
MORE OR LESS CONSTANT IN MOST QUARTERS, AND
INTERRUPTIONS ARE INFREQUENT. SOME TELEPHONES
WORK, BUT MANY DO NOT. INTERNATIONAL CALLS CAN BE
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MADE QUICKLY WITH PAYMENT OF A BRIBE (NOW LL80),
SLOWLY WITHOUT ONE. PEOPLE ARE MOVING BACK AND
FORTH BETWEEN THE SECTORS IN DAYTIME, AND ON SUNDAYS
THE CORNICHE IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY IS BUSY WITH
DEMON DRIVERS BLOWING HORNS AND SUNDAY STROLLERS
EATING PUMPKIN SEEDS. THE ROUTE OVER THE HILL TO
SHTURA IS WELL TRAVELED (ALTHOUGH NOTHING LIKE
PRE-WAR DAYS), AND LARGE TRUCKS ARE MAKING THE RUN
TO DAMASCUS AND BEYOND. THE TV ANNOUNCES THAT
THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AT SHWAYFAT IS HOLDING
CLASSES AGAIN IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF BROTHERHOOD
AND CALM, ETC.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS A PALPABLE
UNEASINESS--AN UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE
FUTURE AND THE LONG TERM--AND PEOPLE ARE BEING
VERY CAREFUL. THEIR CAUTION FINDS EXPRESSION IN
VARIOUS WAYS. LEBANESE DRIVERS NO LONGER LEAN
OUT THE WINDOW AND IMPUGN THE OTHER FELLOW'S
SISTER'S VIRTUE--THEY ARE AFRAID HE MIGHT BE
ARMED. THEY DO NOT TRY IN THEIR FORMER FASHION
TO BUCK THE LINE AT SYRIAN CHECK POINTS, BUT WAIT
PATIENTLY WITHOUT EVEN BLOWING THEIR HORNS (WHAT
A REPRESSION OF THE LEBANESE ID)* OUR AMERICAN
LANDLORD IS UNWILLING TO PAINT OVER THE GRAFFITI--
NASSERITE, JUNBLATTI AND KATAEB--WHICH DISFIGURE
THE FRONT WALL OF THE DURAFFOURD BUILDING, FOR
FEAR OF REPRISALS. PEOPLE DO NOT GO OUT MUCH AT
NIGHT. THE CHRISTIANS WHO CROSS INTO THE MUSLIM

SECTOR BY DAY LIKE TO BE HOME BEFORE DARK. THE SAME HOLDS TRUE OF MUSLIMS IN THE CHRISTIAN SECTOR. BEIRUT IS STILL A DIVIDED CITY. EVEN THOUGH WE ARE ENJOYING SPRING (THE ALMOD TREES ARE IN BLOOM), VERY FEW PEOPLE ARE SITTING OUT IN THE SUN, EVERYONE IS JUST A LITTLE WARY.

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6. OVERHANGING THE COUNTRY ARE MAJOR UNCERTAINTIES-- ABOUT THE PALESTINIANS, ABOUT THE MARONITE SEPARATIST MOVEMENT AND ABOUT THE SOUTH, WHICH REMAINS AN ANARCHIC NO-MAN'S LAND. THE LEBANESE, EVER ALERT FOR A SCAPEGOAT, HAVE SETTLED ON THE PALESTINIANS, AND THOSE UNHAPPY PEOPLE HAVE NOT FINISHED PAYING FOR THE MISTAKE THEIR LEADERS MADE IN GETTING INVOLVED IN A LEBANESE QUARREL. THE LEBANESE ARE COUNTING ON AN ARAB-ISRAEL SETTLEMENT WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE, FOLLOWING WHICH THEY CAN KICK THE PALESTINIANS OUT OF LEBANON, OR AT LEAST FORCE THEM TO ACCEPT A FOREIGN PASSPORT. IN THE MEANTIME, THEY AND THE SYRIANS ARE ANXIOUS TO DISARM THE PALESTINIANS IN THEIR CAMPS, AND PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE SABRA-CHATILA CAMPS WHICH STRADDLE THE BEIRUT AIRPORT ROAD AND ARE IN A POSITION TO ALL BUT CHOK OFF ACCESS TO THE AIRPORT. WITHIN THE CAMPS ARE ALL MANNER OF ARMS, UP TO AND INCLUDING HOWITZERS, AND UNTIL THOSE ARE REMOVED, THE DANGER OF RESUMED FIGHTING WILL ALWAYS BE PRESENT. THE SYRIANS WERE PREPARING TO MOVE AGAINST THE CAMPS IN FORCE WEEK BEFORE LAST, AFTER AN INCIDENT IN WHICH A SYRIAN OFFICER WAS KILLED AND MUTILATED. FOLLOWING A HUE AND CRY FROM ARAFAT AND OTHERS, AND PERHAPS IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST THAT THEY NOT PRECIPITATE A SHOWDOWN ON THE EVE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, THE SYRIANS HELD BACK. THEIR TANKS STILL SURROUND THE CAMP, HOWEVER, AND AT SOME POINT THEY MAY TRY TO MOVE IN, IN WHICH CASE THERE WILL PROBABLY BE A BLOODY FIRE FIGHT--AN UNPLEASANT AND UNNERVING PROSPECT FOR EVERYONE. UNTIL THE PALESTINIANS IN BEIRUT ARE DISARMED, NO ONE HERE WILL RELAX.

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R 011308Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
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USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

7. THE LEADERS OF THE MARONITE LEBANESE FRONT.
EX-PRESIDENTS FRANGIE AND CHAMOUN, PIERRE GEMAYEL
AND FATHER CHARBEL KASSIS, CONTINUE TO AGITATE FOR
SOME SORT OF AUTONOMY FOR KESROUAN AND MOUNT
LEBANON. EXACTLY WHAT THEY WILL SETTLE FOR IS
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UNCLEAR, BUT THE SHARPEST IMPACT OF THEIR SEPARATIST
IDEAS IS ON THE GOL'S EFFORTS TO REESTABLISH A NATIONAL
ARMY. WHILE MANY MUSLIMS APPEAR WILLING TO SERVE
WITH THE MARONITES, THE LATTER'S LEADERS SAY THEY
ARE NOT WILLING TO SERVE WITH THE MUSLIMS,
PARTICULARLY THE SUNNIS WHO FOUGHT WITH THE
PALESTINIANS. ONE PROPOSAL IS FOR SEPARATE ARMIES,

ALONG CONFESSIONAL LINES, FOR EACH PROVINCE--A RETURN TO FEUDAL PRACTICE. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO TAKE SUCH IDEAS SERIOUSLY, CONFESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO A MEANINGFUL, UNIFIED MILITARY FORCE IS A SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO THE RESTORATION OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY, PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTH. SOME WAY MUST BE FOUND OVER OR AROUND IT.

8. IN THE PAST, MOST OF US WHO HAVE WORKED IN OR ON LEBANON HAVE PUT OUR FAITH IN THE LEBANESE ABILITY TO COMPROMISE, TO BECOME RECONCILED, TO TRADE RATHER THAN TO FIGHT. THINGS ARE DIFFERENT TODAY. THE HISTORIC MORAL RESTRAINTS SO CAREFULLY BUILT UP SINCE 1860 WERE OVERCOME AGAIN, AND THE ESSENTIAL BLOODY-MINDEDNESS OF EVERYONE WAS ALLOWED TO EXPRESS ITSELF WITHOUT LET OR HINDRANCE. WHAT OCCURRED HERE WAS NOT SO MUCH A CIVIL WAR AS AN ORGY OF KILLING, DESTRUCTION AND THEFT. THE CASUALTIES WERE MOSTLY CIVILIAN, NOT COMBATANTS, WHOSE COMBAT CONSISTED LARGELY OF MINDLESS SHOOTING AT THE OTHER SIDE. THE SUPPRESSED AGGRESSIONS OF GENERATIONS HAVE FOUND AN OUTLET WITH THE WEAPONS SUPPLIED BY THE ARMS TRADE, AND THERE ARE MANY BLOOD SCORES TO SETTLE AS A RESULT. WHETHER THE WARRIORS CAN NOW BE PUT BACK IN THE BOTTLE IS THE QUESTION. WE HAVE HERE A CLASSIC CASE OF THE NEED FOR ARMS CONTROL AT THE ELEMENTAL, VILLAGE LEVEL. AS LONG AS THE SYRIANS REMAIN IN FORCE, SUPPRESSING THE RESORT TO VIOLENCE, THERE WILL BE QUIET AND A

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MEASURE OF SECURITY, BUT WERE THEY TO LEAVE TOMORROW, THE WHOLE EDIFICE WOULD COME DOWN AROUND OUR EARS AGAIN.

9. PRESIDENT SARKIS STRIKES ME AS AN ARTFUL AND DETERMINED PERSON, WHO IS GOING ABOUT THE PROCESS OF KNITTING THINGS BACK TOGETHER BY PLAYING ALL THE STRINGS--TRADITIONAL POLITICS WITH THE OLD POLS LIKE CHAMOUN AND FRANGIE, CONCERTATION WITH THE SYRIANS TO RESTORE SECURITY, AND CONSTITUTION OF A GOVERNMENT OF COMPARATIVELY NEW FACES WHO THEORETICALLY CAN GET THE JOB OF RECONSTRUCTION DONE MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN THE OLD POLITICIANS.

10. THESE NEW MEN ARE BRIGHT AND EAGER BUT DO NOT IMPRESS ONE WITH THEIR LEADERSHIP ABILITY. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ENACTED A NUMBER OF RATHER TOUGH LAWS BY DECREE, SUCH AS ONE PERMITTING A PURGE OF THE OFFICER CORPS, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER

IT CAN, OR WILL, CARRY THEM OUT. THE PRIME MINISTER
IS A COLORLESS INDIVIDUAL, A VERY DECENT FELLOW,
BUT AN ACADEMIC WITH LITTLE ADMINISTRATIVE
EXPERIENCE. THE OTHER MINISTERS (EXCEPT FOREIGN
AFFAIRS) ALSO LACK THE POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND
DYNAMISM NECESSARY TO GET THE SHOW ON THE ROAD.

11. IN MOST COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD ONE WOULD
REGARD SUCH A SITUATION AS THE PRELUDE TO A MILITARY
COUP AND THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE LAST VESTIGES OF
DEMOCRACY. INDEED, THE SITUATION CRIES OUT FOR A
TOUGH SERGEANT WHO WILL KICK EVERYONE IN THE REAR
AND GET THINGS MOVING. THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO SINGLE
LEBANESE MILITARY FORCE CAPABLE OF SEIZING CONTROL.
THE SYRIANS COULD DO IT, AND INSTALL THEIR OWN MAN
TO RUN THINGS, AND THERE ARE MANY WHO WOULD WELCOME IT,
BUT THAT WOULD MEAN SUPPORTING AN ENEFFICIENT AND EXPENSIVE
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DICTATORSHIP, DESTROYING THE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT COMPROMISE
OF THE CAIRO AND RIYADH SUMMITS, AND POSSIBLY LOSING THE
SAUDI MONEY THAT NOW SUPPORTS THE SYRIAN ARMY IN LEBANON.
FOR THE SYRIAN, THE RISKS AND BURDENS MIGHT NOT BE WORTH
IT.

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USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

12. WITHOUT THE TOUGH SERGEANT, BUT WITH LUCK
AND FOREIGN HELP (OF WHICH LITTLE HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING TO
DATE EXCEPT FROM THE U.S.), THE LEBANESE ARE LIKELY TO
ARRIVE AT A TEMPORARY PATCH JOB WHICH WILL PLEASE NO
ONE AND DO LITTLE ABOUT THE COUNTRY'S FUNDAMENTAL ILLS.
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UNLESS BY SOME MIRACLE LEBANON GETS A STRONG LEADER WHO
CAN PULL ALL THE COUNTRY'S DISPARATE ELEMENTS INTO A
CONSENSUS, THE PATCH JOB WILL LAST FOR TEN OR EVEN
TWENTY YEARS, AND THEN COME APART AGAIN. IT IS THE
REALIZATION OF THIS LIKELIHOOD THAT MAKES THE
MARONITES SEEK A SEPARATE ENCLAVE, SO THAT THEY
CAN ESCAPE THE UNIVERSAL DOOM.

13. THE LEBANESE MAY NOT EVEN COMPLETE THE PATCH
JOB, HOWEVER, IF THEY CANNOT DEAL WITH THE SITUATION
IN THE SOUTH. THE AREA SOUTH OF THE LITANI IS RULED
TODAY BY A SET OF WARRING BANDS--CHRISTIAN AND
MUSLIM, LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN.
SHELLING OF VILLAGES, RAPING AND MURDER ARE THE
ORDER OF THE DAY, AND THE LEBANESE STAND BY
HELPLESSLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO FORCE OF THEIR OWN
TO SEND, AND THE ISRAELIS WILL NOT PERMIT THE ARAB
SECURITY FORCE TO ENTER THE AREA, THREATENING
MILITARY RETALIATION IF THEY DO. THE ISRAELIS ARE
NOW PUSHING THE LOCAL CHRISTIAN FORCES, INCLUDING
A REMNANT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY, TO ESTABLISH A
CORDON SANITAIRE FROM HERMON TO THE SEA. THEY MAY
WELL SUCCEED, AND THEN PERHAPS LEAVE THE INHABITANTS
OF THE AREA BETWEEN THE CORDON AND THE LITANI TO
FIGHT IT OUT IN THEIR OWN HOBBSIAN WAY. MEANWHILE,

LEBANESE POLITICAL LEADERS ARE CONSULTING
FEVERISHLY WITH ONE ANOTHER AND MAKING ALL SORTS
OF PRONOUNCEMENTS ABOUT THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL
ACTIONS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

14. CONCLUSION: ALL IN ALL, HARDLY A VERY
ENCOURAGING OUTLOOK. I REMAIN AN OPTIMIST BECAUSE
THE ALTERNATIVE IS DESPAIR, AND BECAUSE I HAVE FAITH
IN THE ADAPTABILITY AND SURVIVABILITY OF THE LEBANESE.
I LOOK AT THE CASES OF SMUGGLED JOHNNIE WALKER BEING
SOLD OPENLY BY THE ROADSIDE AT \$3.00 A BOTTLE AND
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CONCLUDE THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A LEBANON. BUT IT
WON'T BE THE ONE WE KNEW.

15. AS EVIDENCE OF OUR OPTIMISM, WE ARE SLOWLY
RETURNING THE EMBASSY TO NORMAL OPERATIONS. THE
CONSULAR SECTION REOPENED FOR NONIMMIGRANT VISAS
ON FEB 22, AND AMERICAN PERSONNEL ARE GRADUALLY
MOVING OUT OF EMBASSY APARTMENTS INTO APARTMENT
BUILDINGS ALONG THE CORNICHE. THE LEAMON R. HUNT
MEMORIAL DINING ROOM IS STILL IN OPERATION BUT MAY
SOON REVERT TO A MARINE NCO MESS AND EATING FACILITY
FOR TDY VISITORS FOR LACK OF REGULAR CUSTOMERS.
OUR COMMISSARY IS BEGINNING TO THINK ABOUT GETTING
SOME NEW STOCK. WE ARE CLEANING UP THE MESS
INSIDE THE BUILDING AND HOPE TO REORGANIZE OUR
OFFICE SPACE, ALWAYS WITH AN EYE OUT FOR PROTECTION
FROM SNIPER FIRE AND ARTILLERY, BECAUSE WE ARE NOT
REALLY SURE IT IS ALL OVER. OUR PERSONNEL ARE STILL
TRAVELING WITH BODYGUARDS (MYSELF WITH FIVE) IN
ARMORED SEDANS, AND WE ARE STILL CAREFUL TO REPORT
OUR WHEREABOUTS AND TRAVEL PLANS. I HAVE YET TO
WEAR MY BULLETPROOF VEST OR RAINCOAT, BUT AM GLAD
TO HAVE THE LEXAN WINDOWS ON MY SEDAN. FOR SECURITY
REASONS WE HAVE NOT MOVED UP TO THE RESIDENCE
BUT REMAIN IN WHAT WE LIKE TO THINK OF AS THE EVAN
WILSON APARTMENT IN THE DURAFFOURD BUILDING, NEXT
TO THE EMBASSY.

16. OUR STAFF AT PRESENT IS MINIMAL AND WE ARE
GOING TO TRY TO KEEP IT SMALL, BECAUSE OF SECURITY
CONSIDERATIONS, AMONG OTHER REASONS. WE HOPE WE
HAVE MORE LUCK THAN CERTAIN OTHER POSTS.
(CREEPING EXPANSION IS SETTING IN, HOWEVER. I AM
INFORMED THAT WE MUST HAVE THREE CONSULAR OFFICERS
IF WE ARE TO OPERATE OUR CONSULAR SECTION WITH FULL
SERVICES.)
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17. THIS IS STILL A SEPARATION POST AND WE HAVE NOT
AUTHORIZED THE RETURN OF FAMILIES. NOR DO WE YET
RECOMMEND BEIRUT FOR R&R FROM OTHER POSTS.
A NUMBER OF HOTELS ARE WORKING, BUT CONDITIONS
ARE NOT YET STABLE ENOUGH, AND WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH
SECURITY PERSONNEL TO WATCH OVER VISITORS. THIS IS
STILL A NERVOUS CITY AND LEBANON A COUNTRY WITH AN
UNCERTAIN FUTURE.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

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SAS ID: 2955544
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANON: FIRST IMPRESSIONS
TAGS: PFOR, US, LE, (PARKER, RICHARD F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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